involved employees of the Cantonment Board ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) It is a fact that 208 encroatments in a compact area in Danapur Cantonment have been noticed against which notices under Public Premises (Eviction) Act 1971 have been issued by the Cantonment Board. Government have no information on the anti-social activities of the encroachers. No report has been brought to the notice of the Govt. regarding connivance of the Cantonment Board staff with the encroachers.

Grants in aid to Cantonment Board, Danapur

1947. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the amount of grants in aid given by the Ministry of Defence to the Cantonment Board, Danapur, Bihar during the period from January, 1990 to 15th November, 1993 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : Cantonment Board, Danapur (Bihar) was given Rs. 107.40 lakhs as ordinary Grants-in-aid and Rs. 14.86 lakhs as special Grants-in-aid during the period from January 1990 to 15th November, 1993.

Impact of scrapping of Cryogenic rocket deal with Russia

1948. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that consequent upon the scrapping of the cryogenic rocket engine deal, the defence purchases from Russia have been or are going to be whittled down ;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken to reduce defence cooperation with Russia to a bare minimum ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the supply of spares and equipments from Russia, particularly for the air-force, despite repeated assurances from the Yeltsin administration and also the conclusion of a $ 680 million credit agreement late last year, has virtually come to a halt ; and

(d) if so, what are the details of steps that Government have taken to cope with such a predicament ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (c) No, Sir.

(b) and (d) Do not arise.

Reports of ships carrying arms in Southern coast

1949. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports of the movement of ships carrying arms for terrorists on the southern coastlines ;

(b) whether Government propose to take steps to provide necessary facilities to the Coast Guards and Customs Department to intercept the illegal transport of arms ; and

(c) whether the Coast Guards and Customs Department have modern speedboats to match with the arms smugglers' activities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Joint intensive surveillance operations are launched by the Coast Guards and Customs formations which are equipped with modern speed boats to intercept arms smuggler's operations.

Firing on Pakistan border

1950. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistani troops opened unprovoked firing in several Indian pickets in Rajouri and Poonch districts on Jammu and Kashmir borders ;

(b) if so, whether the firings were to cover up the infiltrators who have been sneaking into India to create disorder ;

(c) what are the total firings by the Pakistani forces in all sectors in India during September and October, 1993 ; and